

ClaimsWhat is claimed is:

1 1. In a World Wide Web (Web) communication network with
2 user access via a plurality of data processor controlled
3 interactive receiving display stations for displaying
4 received Web documents accessible from database sources
5 on the Web, a system for simplifying the Uniform Resource
6 Locators (URLs) displayed for each received Web document
7 comprising:

8 service provider means for accessing Web documents
9 for said receiving display stations responsive to user
10 requests;

11 Web database source servers, responsive to service
12 provider requests including:

13 means for accessing requested Web documents
14 from said Web database sources, and
15 means for defining the URLs for said accessed
16 Web documents to include a URL domain section and a
17 URL path portion within the database source; and
18 means in said service provider to convert the
19 original URLs of said accessed Web documents to include a
20 domain section specifying the service provider's domain
21 and a path portion within said service provider's domain
22 simpler than the original URL path portion.

1 2. The Web network of claim 1 wherein said path portion
2 in said converted URL is shorter than the path portion in
3 the original URL.

1 3. The Web network of claim 1 wherein said means for
2 defining the URLs for said accessed Web documents
3 dynamically generate said URL path portion.

1 4. The Web network of claim 1 wherein:
2 said means for converting said original URLs are
3 optional; and
4 further including means enabling an authorized user
5 to activate said optional means for converting said
6 original URLs.

1 5. The Web network of claim 4 further including means in
2 said service provider to charge a user a fee for
3 activating said means for converting an original URL.

1 6. The Web network of claim 5 wherein said user
2 activating said means for converting is a host of a Web
3 database source defining the original URL.

1 7. The Web network of claim 1 further including:
2 means in said service provider for respectively
3 reconverting said converted URLs back to the original
4 URLs;
5 whereby Web document requests directed to said
6 converted URLs will respectively be transmitted through
7 the service provider to the database sources on the Web.

1 8. In a Web communication network with user access via a
2 plurality of data processor controlled interactive
3 receiving display stations for displaying received Web
4 documents accessible from database sources on the Web, a
5 method for simplifying the URLs displayed for each
6 received Web document comprising:

7 accessing Web documents through service providers
8 for said receiving display stations responsive to user
9 requests;

10 accessing requested Web documents from Web database
11 source servers, responsive to service provider requests;

12 defining the URLs for said accessed Web documents to
13 include a URL domain section and a URL path portion
14 within the database source; and

15 converting, in said service provider, the original
16 URLs of said accessed Web documents to include a domain
17 section specifying the service provider's domain and a
18 path portion within said service provider's domain
19 simpler than the original URL path portion.

1 9. The method of claim 8 wherein said path portion in
2 said converted URL is shorter than the path portion in
3 the original URL.

1 10. The method of claim 8 wherein said URLs for said
2 accessed Web documents are dynamically generated.

1 11. The method of claim 8 wherein:

2 said step of converting said original URLs is
3 optional; and

4 further including step of enabling an authorized
5 user to activate said optional means for converting said
6 original URLs.

1 12. The method of claim 11 further including the step of
2 enabling the service provider to charge a user a fee for
3 activating said step of converting an original URL.

1 13. The method of claim 12 wherein said user activating
2 said step of converting is a host of a Web database
3 source defining the original URL.

1 14. A computer program having code recorded on a
2 computer readable medium for simplifying the URLs
3 displayed for each received Web document in a Web
4 communication network with user access via a plurality of
5 data processor controlled interactive receiving display
6 stations for displaying received Web documents accessible
7 from database sources on the Web comprising:

8 service provider means for accessing Web documents
9 for said receiving display stations responsive to user
10 requests;

11 Web database source servers, responsive to service
12 provider requests including:

13 means for accessing requested Web documents
14 from said Web database sources, and
15 means for defining the URLs for said accessed
16 Web documents to include a URL domain section and a
17 URL path portion within the database source; and
18 means in said service provider to convert the
19 original URLs of said accessed Web documents to include a
20 domain section specifying the service provider's domain
21 and a path portion within said service provider's domain
22 simpler than the original URL path portion.

1 15. The computer program of claim 14 wherein said path
2 portion in said converted URL is shorter than the path
3 portion in the original URL.

1 16. The computer program of claim 14 wherein said means
2 for defining the URLs for said accessed Web documents
3 dynamically generate said URL path portion.

1 17. The computer program of claim 14 wherein:
2 said means for converting said original URLs are
3 optional; and
4 further including means enabling an authorized user
5 to activate said optional means for converting said
6 original URLs.

1 18. The computer program of claim 17 further including
2 means in said service provider to charge a user a fee for
3 activating said means for converting an original URL.

1 19. The computer program of claim 18 wherein said user
2 activating said means for converting is a host of a Web
3 database source defining the original URL.

1 20. The computer program of claim 14 further including:
2 means in said service provider for respectively
3 reconverting said converted URLs back to the original
4 URLs;
5 whereby Web document requests directed to said
6 converted URLs will respectively be transmitted through
7 the service provider to the database sources on the Web.